

In the Claims

The following presentation of Claims replaces all previous versions.

We claim:

8. (currently amended) A method of detecting lymphocytes expressing cell-surface gp120 in an aqueous sample containing viral infected cells displaying gp120, comprising:

a. combining to form a mixture:

i. an effective amount of a plurality of first monoclonal antibodies, each specific to a different epitope of gp120, ~~comprising an anti-gp120 antibody~~, wherein ~~the first~~ each such monoclonal antibody is attached to one of one or more detectable labels,

ii. an effective amount of ~~a one or more second antibody~~ antibodies, each comprising an antibody specific for ~~said one or more of said detectable labels~~, wherein each of said second antibodies is attached to a magnetic particle, and

iii. the sample;

b. incubating said mixture under conditions effective for (i) binding of said ~~first monoclonal antibody~~ antibodies to gp120 on said cells, and (ii) for binding of said second ~~antibody~~ antibodies to said detectable labels attached to said ~~anti-gp120 monoclonal antibody~~ antibodies, to form a complex, wherein each of said first monoclonal antibody antibodies is bound to said gp120 displayed on a viral infected cell;

c. separating said complex by applying a magnetic field to said mixture, whereby said complex is retained by said magnetic field, and

d. determining the presence of magnetically separated lymphocytes expressing cell-surface gp120.

17 (new). A method as in Claim 8, wherein step (d) comprises counting the number of cells attached to the one or more detectable labels.

18 (new). A method as in Claim 17, wherein counting the number of cells comprises detecting complexes that emit light at one or more predetermined wavelengths in response to incident radiation.

19 (new). A method as in Claim 18, wherein counting the number of cells comprises using flow cytometry.

20 (new). A method as in Claim 18, wherein counting the number of cells comprises using fluorescence microscopy.